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March 26, 2021
TESTIMONY OF ERICA L. PILICY-RYAN, ESQ.
TESTIMONY RE: H.J. NO. 233 ROBERT J. NACCARATO, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE ESTATE OF AADEN MORENO

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Erica Pilicy-Ryan and I am a Partner at The Flood Law Firm, LLC located in Middletown, CT. My firm represents Robert J. Naccarato, Esq., Administrator of the Estate of Aaden Moreno. You have likely heard of this case as it was highly publicized in the media. On July 5, 2015, at approximately 11:45 p.m., seven-month-old, Aaden Moreno died while in the custody of his father, Tony Moreno. That evening, Aaden was tragically killed when his father threw him off the Arrigoni Bridge and into the Connecticut River below.

In the weeks leading up to the baby's death, the Department of Children and Families ("DCF"), its agents, servants, and/or employees were made aware and presented with evidence of the father, Tony Moreno's, dangerous propensities directed toward both baby, Aaden Moreno, and Aaden's mother, Adrienne Oyola. On June 17, 2015, both Aaden Moreno and Adrienne Oyola obtained a restraining order against Tony Moreno that would either be extended or end at a separate hearing on June 29, 2015.

While the restraining order was in effect, Tony Moreno was legally prohibited from seeing baby, Aaden Moreno, and Aaden's mother. DCF conducted a safety assessment where they determined that the baby was safe during this finite period because Tony no longer resided with

the baby due to the temporary restraining order entered by the Court. DCF had minimal and inadequate contact with Tony Moreno. DCF did not perform a safety assessment while Aaden Moreno lived with Tony Moreno.

On June 26, 2015, Tony Moreno violated the temporary restraining order. On June 26, 2015, Tony Moreno had a friend tell Adrianne Oyola that his mother was sick and wanted to see her and the baby. Adrianne agreed to bring baby, Aaden Moreno, to see Tony's mother. However, Tony Moreno was at the mother's house when Adrianne Oyola arrived. Tony Moreno told Adrianne that "if she did not make him happy with the Court then the lawyer would put her in jail for a year."

When the separate hearing to extend or end the restraining order occurred on June 29, 2015, DCF failed to attend. Adrianne Oyola testified at that hearing. DCF was not present to hear her testimony. Adrianne testified that she believed she was under a continuous threat of present physical pain, injury, stalking or threatening because Tony Moreno violated the restraining order a few days prior on June 26, 2015. She testified that on a separate occasion, Tony Moreno left their baby, Aaden, on a bed and completely left the home with Aaden unattended. Adrianne explained that there were times when Tony Moreno refused to let her bring her son with her and he physically pushed her hands away when she tried to take him. Adrianne further testified that Tony Moreno would call her names and shove her around. She testified that Tony would tell the baby to shut up if he was making too much noise and he would often say that he wanted to give up all rights to his child. Tony Moreno would threaten Adrianne that he could make her son disappear at any time of the day. At the hearing, DCF failed to submit anything that would allow

the Court to extend the restraining order. As a result, the restraining order was not extended. Furthermore, DCF failed to follow-up with Adrianne and her baby, to conduct a safety assessment after the restraining order ended.

Adrianne Oyola was a mother crying out for help. If DCF attended the restraining order hearing, then at least the Judge would have had the benefit of hearing what DCF had to say. The baby's father, Tony Moreno, was a known danger to baby, Aaden. The Department of Children and Families failed to protect baby Aaden and was the proximate cause of the baby's death. It has been nearly six years since Aaden Moreno was tragically killed. Adrianne Oyola has been waiting all this time to hear whether she can begin to seek justice in the Superior Court. It would be devastating and an injustice for Adrianne Oyola to continue to wait to merely hear whether she can begin her fight for justice. We ask to be permitted to file our case on behalf of baby Aaden Moreno in the Superior Court of Connecticut. Justice for Aaden Moreno should not be delayed any longer. Additionally, we support the proposed legislation HB6506 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURES OF THE OFFICE OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER. The proposed legislation will ensure people like Adrianne Oyola will no longer have to suffer due to long delays in their pursuit of justice following a tragedy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica L. Pilicy-Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erica" being the most prominent part.

Erica L. Pilicy-Ryan